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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Cameroon

Government Removes Cocoa Price Guarantees

AB0308135094 Dakar PANA in English 1042 GMT
3 Aug 94

[Text] Yaounde, 3 Aug (CAMNEWS/PANA)—State guaranteed minimum producer prices for Cameroon's cocoa farmers have been removed from Monday [1 August], Trade and Industry Minister Pierre Eloundou Mani has said in Yaounde. He made the announcement on Tuesday at a cocoa commercialisation meeting attended by officials of the National Cocoa Marketing Authority and the Exporters Union of Cameroon.

Under this new arrangement, the earnings of cocoa producers will depend on the London cocoa market, just as coffee producers depend on the New York market. Therefore, cocoa buyers and exporters will be asked to send their weekly producer price offers to farmers and the grade of their produce per locality to the authority. Then, these prices will be announced in the Cameroon media.

The farm price, which will serve as the basic price for regulating the export market is 75 francs CFA per kilogramme (about 539.7 CFA ; 1 U.S. dollar). Advance payments will be deposited into an account to be opened for that purpose with the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) and the compliment to be reimbursed.

Rwanda

Prime Minister on Possible Operation Turquoise Extension

LD0308170794 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Interview with Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu by Ghislaine Dupont in Kigali; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dupont] We know that the new authorities of the country are increasing their calls for the return of the thousands of refugees. Their return is unenthusiastic and rather slow. Faustin Twagiramungu comments:

[Twagiramungu] It is obvious that these people are not coming in the numbers we would like to see, but I believe that this is because they are tired. These people left their places of origin and some [word indistinct] have covered more than 70 km. So, asking them to make a further effort, to cross the border, return to their places of origin, and cover over 70 km more is a little difficult. That is why we have to consider means of transportation. The international community, which is giving medical supplies and food, should also do some other things. The first is to convince the people that the government which has been installed can guarantee their safety. Second, in everything they are envisaging in order to resolve this

crisis they should also include means of transportation. There is no other solution that can be envisaged today.

[Dupont] You say that there will be impartial justice, with international observers present, to try those who are responsible for the massacres. Do you consider that a distinction should be made between those who were manipulated and those who were the instigators, the organizers of these massacres?

[Twagiramungu] Of course, there were organizers of the massacres, but as far as people being manipulated is concerned, that is an assumption. Whether they organized the killings or actually carried them out, I believe the culprits should be punished in the same way. As far as the manipulation of people is concerned, that is an assumption—we do not know if these people were manipulated. The whole thing was well-organized.

[Dupont] There were people who were forced to do these things to avoid being killed themselves.

[Twagiramungu] We do not know, we do not know if such cases exist, because such cases have not yet been examined by the tribunals. This is what you say, but we are not at all convinced about this. However, if it should happen that the tribunals find that these people were manipulated, then I imagine that there will be some means of considering these cases and taking the appropriate measures, which would be different from the measures applied to those who initiated this plan.

[Dupont] The RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] does not appear particularly anxious to get in touch with the authorities springing from the democratic parties that featured in the Arusha agreement. How do you explain that?

[Twagiramungu] We are no longer talking in terms of the RPF. After the installation of the transitional government it is noted in the peace agreement that the RPF ceases to be a rebel party and it is a political party like any other. So, there is no territory under RPF control, there is territory which is under the control of the current government. If people want to apply to the RPF, then they have only to go ahead, but we will quite simply ignore that. So, I believe that people are making a mistake. If there are talks to be held then these talks must be held with the current government.

[Dupont] France says that it might extend Operation Turquoise by a few weeks if there is trouble when the time comes for it to leave and, above all, if there is a further exodus of the population, which is what the organizations working in this French safe zone fear in particular.

[Twagiramungu] Look, France can extend its stay, but this must be done via the normal channels. In other words the UN Security Council should be consulted about the matter, so that the mandate, as set out within the framework of Resolution 929, can be revised. Otherwise, I do not know if France can quite simply remain in...

[Dupont interrupting] No, it will do this within the framework of the United Nations.

[Twagiramungu] If it does so within the framework of the United Nations then that is all right, but if it cannot place Operation Turquoise within this framework, then it is not possible, of course.

[Dupont] Do you not fear that if UNAMIR-2 [UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda-2] is not deployed adequately to relieve the French then there will be a further exodus of people to Zaire?

[Twagiramungu] An exodus of people to Zaire is possible in so far as France continues to refuse to allow the civilian authorities of this government to enter that zone. We believe that this zone is viewed today as a region under French tutelage, but if, on the other hand we were given the opportunity to contact the people at Gikongoro, Kibuye, and Cyangugu, we are convinced that these people would not be able to cross and go over to the other side of the border; in other words, to Zaire.

Demands Right To Enter Safety Zone

LD0308214894 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] We now move on to the situation in Rwanda. The promises of reconciliation made by the new authorities have apparently not yet convinced the refugees to return home. Yesterday, the new President Bizimungu once again promised to work for reconciliation, reiterating that all those responsible for the massacres would be tried.

Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, for his part, has put at 30,000 the number of Rwandans likely to be tried. All those who ordered, planned, and carried out the massacres must be punished, Mr. Twagiramungu said, and once again demanded the right for the new government to enter the safety zone established by France. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Twagiramungu] The Gikongoro zone is not under the control of the current government. It has been put under the control of Operation Turquoise, and the French authorities will not allow the civilian authorities of this government to enter it. Apparently one has to have permission. Furthermore, we are wondering why we should have to ask for permission to go into a region of our own country. This being the case, if the authorities that were there have fled, we are not in a position to replace them today.

[Correspondent Ghislaine Dupont] There are committees that are being set up and wish to talk to the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front], in particular, to discover whether the guarantees of safety are serious.

[Twagiramungu] You are correct, but these committees were initiated by France, by the French troops who are there. We did not ask....

[Dupont interrupting] That is not what they say.

[Twagiramungu] If that is not what they say, it is because they were not telling you the truth, because we do not have control over the Gikongoro region, the region of Kibuye, and the region of Cyangugu. I should tell you, furthermore, that the region of Cyangugu is being looted by the Zaireans, and the same thing is happening at Kibuye. If there is a committee that has been established, then this committee must be able to convince the French that it is there, and the French should contact us so that we can restore order in that region. [end recording]

Government Agrees to Zone Demilitarization

LD0308152094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Rwanda—An agreement has just been reached concerning the future of the humanitarian zone established by France in the southwest of the country. The new government in Kigali has just agreed that this zone should be demilitarized after the French withdrawal, which, in principle, should be concluded by 22 August. Muriel Pomponne:

[Pomponne] Yes, from this date the presence of any armed men in this zone will be forbidden. From 22 August, security will be enforced by the UN peacekeepers alone. Since the end of last week 200 UNAMIR men have begun taking over from the French soldiers, who have begun their withdrawal. So, to put it clearly, no armed soldier of the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] will be able to enter this region. The only military presence authorized will be that of the UN peacekeepers. [passage omitted]

The agreement has been accepted by the new Rwandan Government, but the Kigali authorities wish to be able to send civilian officials into this zone before 22 August. Kigali wants to assert its sovereignty over the whole of Rwanda. President Bizimungu took a tough line on this subject, even threatening France with war if it does not allow Rwandan civil servants to enter this region. However, neither Paris nor the United Nations ever contested the sovereignty of the Rwandan state over the whole of the country, and it appears that agreement can be found on this point, with the French soldiers opposing only the presence of armed RPF troops.

Bizimungu Threatens War if RPF Denied Entry

EA0308190094 Bukavu Voix du Zaire in French 1630 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The French presence in the security area occupied by soldiers of Operation Turquoise is becoming unbearable. This was declared by the new Rwandan strongman, Pasteur Bizimungu. The security area must be demilitarized. The United Nations, for its part, plans to replace the French soldiers. The Rwandan head of state threatened to spread the war if the French continued to deny

the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] entry into the area, which was still outside the control of the Rwandan Government.

Former Minister Interviewed on Rwanda's Future

MM0408100494 London INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY in English 4 Aug 94 p 14

[Report incorporating interview with Eliezer Niyitegeka, information minister of the Hutu Government, by Robert Block; date not given: "Hutus Plot to Regain Rwanda"]

[Text] Eliezer Niyitegeka is obsessed with democracy. It is a strange obsession for a man accused by international human rights groups of being a war criminal. But Mr. Niyitegeka, the Information Minister of Rwanda's former Hutu extremist government, is occupied with the idea of teaching the Western world the true principles of government of the people. He sums them up in two words: majority rule.

In Rwanda today, said Mr. Niyitegeka, sitting in a lush lakeside resort in Bukavu, Zaire, there is a government run by the mainly Tutsi Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), which represents the minority of the country. The majority of Rwandans, the Hutus, are living like himself (although not quite as comfortably) as refugees in Zaire or Tanzania. The world not only accepts this but sanctioned it by placing the Rwandan Government under an arms embargo, thus ensuring its defeat by the RPF, he said.

"We have to get the international community to respect majority rights. We will use media. We will use diplomacy. If that fails, we will use force. We will reorganise our army. We have an army. What we need is bombs and munitions, so we will buy them. We have the money. We will try to get help from friends," he said.

"And we don't have to wait. We have suffered enough. The majority does not have to suffer while a minority rules its country. That is injustice. Now we are going to preach democracy to the West, because we have seen that the West does not know what democracy is. Democracy is the rule of the majority but the protection of the minority. We are ready to protect them. We have to save democracy."

After an organised campaign of extermination against the Tutsis and those Hutus opposed to Rwanda's ruling party—much of which was directed by broadcast on Radio Rwanda, which was under the minister's control—it is doubtful that Mr. Niyitegeka means what he says. But he cannot be entirely dismissed.

Mr. Niyitegeka, like most members of the country's former government, is holed up in Bukavu on the Zairean border, near the south-western Rwandan town of Cyangugu. The court assembled in Bukavu spends most of its time involved in self-justification while ministers plot their return.

However, these are not just pipe-dreams. The former government still has more than 20,000 men in uniform in eastern Zaire and an intact military and political structure. Perhaps more important, it maintains a hold on more than one million refugees in camps in Zaire through a campaign of propaganda and intimidation.

Such is the power of the former government over refugees that on Tuesday the United Nations in Rwanda announced that part of its mission was the "battle for the hearts and minds of the people in the camps." The UN said it was planning a counter-propaganda campaign to assure refugees that it was safe to return to Rwanda.

The former government said that it had asked Kinshasa permission to resume its radio broadcasts to refugees in Zaire. The broadcasts by an extremist radio station, Radio Milles Collines, the government in exile's mobile hate propaganda machine, went off the air three weeks ago.

On the question of why the Hutus killed so many Tutsis, Mr. Niyitegeka, who said that he was above reproach, admitted that he had given the matter much thought. "We have documents proving that most of the Tutsis were part of the RPF. And if we were fighting against the RPF... then people had to fight them also," he said.

He continued: "Even if people will go back to Rwanda, the Army will stay here and within one or two years they will go back and there will be fighting again. There will never be peace. If you have 200,000 Tutsis in Kigali and they are in power, they can live there for 10 years or 20 years but in the end you will have war again."

Government To End KwaZulu/Natal State of Emergency*MB0308133594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1328
GMT 3 Aug 94*

[Text] National Assembly August 3 SAPA—The government wanted to bring the state of emergency in Kwa-Zulu/Natal to an end as soon as possible, and hoped to make an announcement soon, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said on Wednesday [3 August]. Speaking in an interpellation debate, he said Safety and Security Minister Mr. Sydney Mufamadi had recommended to him that the state of emergency be lifted.

This recommendation had been forwarded to President Nelson Mandela who, he understood, was having discussions with IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi on the issue.

Strike at Pick'n Pay Stores Over*MB0308154694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1536
GMT 3 Aug 94*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 3 SAPA—The two-week strike by Pick'n Pay workers has ended, South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union [SACCAWU] officials confirmed on Wednesday [3 August] afternoon.

SACCAWU officials said workers would return to work between Friday and Monday. They told a press conference in Johannesburg the union and management could not agree on an approach to discipline and grievances at branches, but the matter would be discussed next week.

Talks were mediated by Independent Mediation Services of South Africa.

Further Details*MB0308173894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1605
GMT 3 Aug 94*

[Report by Micel Schnehage]

[Excerpt] Johannesburg Aug 3 SAPA—A three-week-old strike by Pick'n Pay workers countrywide ended on Wednesday [3 August] with the announcement of a R180 [Rand] across-the-board pay rise for 15 months, representing an increase of 12.3 per cent. Workers began striking on July 12 after Pick'n Pay management and the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union [SACCAWU] failed to reach agreement on wages and working conditions.

Original union demands were for R229 across-the-board increase over 12 months and Pick'n Pay offered R175 over 16 months.

The settlement, which raises the monthly average wage to R1,643 a month, is back-dated to 1 March and will stay in effect until 27 May next year.

Pick'n Pay management said at a Johannesburg press conference on Wednesday workers were expected to return to work on Friday "to give the union time to communicate with their members and to issue a statement where both the company and the union record their opposition to all forms of discrimination, including anti-Semitism."

The strike by about 10,000 workers is said to have cost Pick'n Pay an estimated R70 million in turnover and workers on average R1,560 each because of a "no work, no pay" rule. "Considering the salary sacrifice strikers have made this means that the average increase is only R600 a year or R50 a month," the statement said.

Asked whether disciplinary action would be taken against strikers who turned violent during their protests, joint Pick'n Pay Managing Director Rene de Wet said a meeting with SACCAWU was planned to discuss disciplinary hearings.

Charges of trespassing laid against workers who defied a court interdict by occupying some stores would also be reviewed and attempts would be made to have them withdrawn. The severity of other criminal or violent acts committed would be weighed and a decision taken on whether or not to prosecute.

Pick'n Pay Chairman Raymond Ackerman said in a company statement although the company had earlier refused to budge on its settlement offer, the decision to increase it was taken in a "spirit of mediation which was in keeping with urgent national priorities of reconciliation and reconstruction."

Other issues had been discussed and would be implemented no later than 31 January. They include:

- "Revised disciplinary procedure and conduct during industrial action;
- Job security and flexibility of labour;
- A courtesy agreement;
- Employee training and development, career pathing, affirmative action; worker participation and information disclosure; and
- Employee incentive schemes and a revised recognition agreement."

The company repeated its concern over strikers' conduct, saying it hoped to foster better relations with workers. The statement said it believed workers' expectations, which were in "excess of what is practically possible" in the post-election period, to be one of the root causes of the strike.

Mr. de Wet described the strike as probably one of the major events in the company's 27-year history. [passage omitted]

COSATU Calls Off PWV General Strike*MB0408123394 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1040
GMT 4 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Johannesburg Aug 4 SAPA—Mass action in the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] in support of strikers countrywide was on Thursday called off

by the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU]. COSATU had called for a general strike in the PWV on 8 August, which could have involved about 400,000 employees.

Thursday's announcement came a day after a pay-rise agreement was reached between Pick 'n Pay and the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union [SACCAWU].

COSATU Witwatersrand secretary Langa Zita told a Johannesburg press conference the union would intensify its consumer boycott of Shoprite/Checkers, which was still in dispute with SACCWU.

The decision to cancel the general strike followed talks with police, employers, the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Fire on Schoolbus With AK-47's

MB0408072894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0719 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Johannesburg August 4 SAPA—Gunmen opened fire with AK-47 rifles at a schoolbus travelling on Rooikraal Road in Heidelberg early on Thursday, wounding the driver and a schoolchild.

Detectives were quick on the scene and were reported to be pursuing the gunmen in the veld. A helicopter is also being used in the search.

No further details were known at the time of going to press.

Further Details of Attack

MB0408094094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0845 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 4 SAPA—A child and a man were slightly injured by shards of glass on Thursday [4 August] morning when gunmen fired at a minibus picking up schoolchildren at a Rooikraal smallholding near Heidelberg. East Rand police said the minibus was collecting schoolchildren to transport them to a "volkskool" in Heidelberg when it came under attack from three AK-47-wielding men at 0715.

At the gate of the smallholding, one suspect opened fire with an AK-47 rifle, shattering the left front window of the vehicle. Mr. Dolf Botha, a passenger, and a child were slightly injured by flying shards of glass.

Police said there were at least three suspects on the scene at the time of the shooting.

Mrs. Susie Pretorius, 41, the minibus driver, managed to drive away.

Within minutes of the shooting, police, backed up by a police helicopter rushed to the scene. They spotted Mrs. Pretorius and returned with her to the scene.

Earlier reports said the police were pursuing the suspects through the veld.

PWV Police Taking 'Immediate Steps' to Combat Crime Wave

MB0208180994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The police in the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] region are taking immediate steps to combat the current crime wave and attacks on police officers. The PWV's MEC [Member of Executive Council] for public safety, Jesse Duarte, said the police were setting up road blocks in Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Soweto, and that they were preparing to work longer hours. Addressing a news conference in Johannesburg, Duarte said the government would not allow criminals to get the upper hand. She said policemen and women were very concerned about the attacks on their colleagues and that they were committed to enforcing law and order.

President Mandela Faces ANC Parliamentary Caucus

MB0308175394 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1715 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[Text] Cape Town August 3 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela faces the parliamentary caucus of the African National Congress on Thursday [4 August] in what could be a heated encounter about minority party representation in the government of national unity's structures. Mr. Mandela, who has in the past been criticised by his caucus for not being present at meetings, will brief the caucus on recent discussions he held with Deputy President F W de Klerk on the role of minority parties.

Mr. de Klerk has argued that ANC cabinet ministers are sidelining the National Party [NP] by making statements which do not reflect consensus positions. Since his return from abroad, he has called for the NP to be fully involved in government.

In an address to the National Assembly on Wednesday, Mr. de Klerk warned that the NP's participation in the GNU [government of national unity] was not unconditional. "We insist that we should play the full role envisaged and mandated for us within the framework of the transitional constitution.

"Efforts by individual ministers or by the ANC as a whole to embark on initiatives in (these) key areas without first reaching coalition agreements have the potential of placing serious strain on the GNU," Mr. de Klerk said.

The first indication that Mr. de Klerk intends reversing the tide which has seen the NP sidelined over the past two months, came on Wednesday when elections for the chairs of six ANC-dominated parliamentary committees were postponed. The committees are designed to provide

multiparty input into government policies in a variety of different fields—exactly the sort of input Mr. de Klerk is insisting on.

ANC caucus chairman Mendi Msimang told the Foreign Affairs Committee that “the other parties have approached the president to say they would also like to chair some of the committees.” He said the issue would be dealt with at Wednesday’s cabinet committee. It was not dealt with, however.

Mr. Msimang said later Mr. Mandela had asked for the elections to be postponed “pending discussions with the leader of the NP and other minority parties.”

The ANC caucus is understood to have been upset by Mr. Mandela’s recent decision to allow the NP the presidency of the Senate (Mr. Kobie Coetsee) and the deputy chairmanship of the Constitutional Assembly (Mr. Leon Wessels).

But the NP is demanding that it receive 20 percent of chairmanships of standing committees because it occupies 20 percent of parliamentary seats. This arrangement would require that individual ANC members of the ANC-dominated committees elect NP members to the posts.

Earlier this year, the ANC caucus attempted to overrule the appointment of a cabinet committee which was to investigate whether Parliament should be moved from Cape Town to Pretoria. Sources then described the move as a “revolt” and said the caucus intended flexing its muscles on issues that directly affected ANC MP’s.

Country Urged To Adopt ‘Strong’ Foreign Policy

MB0308083694 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] A former assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr. Chester Crocker, says South Africa will have to adopt a strong foreign policy with its northern neighbors to protect its national interests. Addressing businessmen in Johannesburg, Dr. Crocker said that South Africa could not separate itself from the rest of the world and relegate foreign policy to a secondary issue. He said that South Africa’s own national interests were so connected to the immediate future of Africa that it had no choice, but to get involved and engaged as peacemaker.

Further on Ramphosa’s Constitutional Assembly Strategies

MB0308131894 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0510 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the “Radio Today” program]

[Text] Some ANC MP’s say they are concerned that the writing of the new constitution has faded from the political picture. The chairman of the Constitutional Assembly, Cyril Ramaphosa, however, says that a

number of strategies will be used to involve the public in the process and to keep the debate on constitutional issues alive.

[Begin recording] [Ramaphosa] It is the process of raising once again the public consciousness of our people as a whole on constitutional matters. Remember that this Constitutional Assembly has exactly one month in which it has to draft and adopt a constitution. If it fails to do so, the entire transition process can be plunged into a near disaster-type of situation.

[SABC correspondent Marion Edmunds] As strong as that?

[Ramaphosa] Yes, in that if we fail to agree on a constitution then we have to hold a general election. We hope that the public will refund through various structures and formations amongst our people, and ordinary people as well, by presenting submissions to the Constitutional Assembly. We want to go around the country, solicit those submissions. We will want even to hold town meetings where people can come and present their views, people’s forums. We will want to engage a whole range of organizations throughout the country so that people in an organized way get involved in the constitution-making process.

[Edmunds] Mr. Ramaphosa said that a great deal of work had already been done at committee level to pave the way for the writing of the new constitution. This work included appointing staff and directors to provide the necessary administrative support to the process. A five-person panel of constitutional experts would also have to be appointed to advise the Constitutional Assembly on the drafting of the constitution.

The constitutional Assembly is likely to meet on August the 15th to discuss the approach it’s going to take to the writing of the constitution to define a process or method, and once that’s done, it will start tackling substantial issues. A special effort will be made to draw all members of the Constitutional Assembly into the process, and not just leave it to an exclusive group of MP’s and seniors. I asked Mr. Ramaphosa whether the writing of the interim constitution in Kempton Park had provided a basis for the writing of the new and final constitution.

[Ramaphosa] Well, the multiparty process has been a forerunner of the constitutional-making process here in a number of ways, but we do want to depart quite a bit from that process. As I said, it was too exclusive, and it was not fully representative of the various views and opinions in our country. We now have the Constitutional Assembly which is much more representative, but it must not regard its representativeness as being all-inclusive. There are a whole lot of other people outside this Constitutional Assembly who need to put inputs, and we must therefore engage them. So with the multiparty negotiation process at the World Trade Center, we take the negotiation process experience that we got there

as being important, but not being sufficiently important to lead us to the drafting of the final constitution of our country.

[Edmunds] Mr. Ramaphosa said he was confident that the new constitution would be written in the allotted 21 months. [end recording]

De Klerk: Government Has To Achieve Common Goals

MB0308170794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1543 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] National Assembly Aug 3 SAPA—The National Party [NP] did not want a veto, but wanted decisions to be reached by consensus in the coalition government, deputy executive president and leader of the NP, Mr. F W de Klerk said on Wednesday [3 August]. In the budget debate Mr. de Klerk said the coalition government had to achieve common national goals, which included establishing a strong, genuine and lasting democracy.

"Create an environment in which all our people, irrespective of their diversity, can live together in peace, security and mutual respect.

"Build a strong and vibrant economy, based on the tried and tested principles which have succeeded elsewhere in the world."

The challenge facing all partners in the GNU [government of national unity] was to defend and nurture the new nation—which was still weak and vulnerable—and ensure that the young and vulnerable democracy took root and flourished.

He implored members of the National Assembly to differ on issues on the basis of sound reasoning and avoid negative, destructive and backward debates.

Alluding to the co-operative nature of the interim constitution, Mr. de Klerk quoted the constitution: "The cabinet shall function in a manner which gives consideration to the consensus-seeking spirit underlying the concept of a government of national unity as well as the need for effective government."

The coalition government was working well with the emerging policies which could not be attributed to one single party.

The NP was ready to cooperate with all other parties in the gnu, but refused to become the captive of any party. "We reserve to ourselves the right at all time to act according to our conscience and beliefs."

South Africa was facing the same difficulties faced by coalition governments through the world, including countries such as Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark, which had long traditions of coalition government. "Our coalition ... is mandated by the transitional constitution. The glue that binds it is the common realisation that at this critical time in our national

history it is essential that all significant elements in our society should work together."

The budget like many of the GNU's other decisions was the product of compromise and common sense—a typical coalition approach, Mr. de Klerk said. The ANC general secretary and MP Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa had indicated on Monday, that the budget differed from his party's ideals. "We in South Africa have little experience of coalition governments and will have to develop the skills and mechanisms which will enable parties to cohabit in government," Mr. de Klerk said.

Citing lessons learned during his recent overseas visit, Mr. de Klerk said the coalition government has to reach fairly detailed framework agreements on all important policy questions. "Establish conventions regarding the leeway permitted for coalition members to criticise coalition government policy and their colleagues within the government—particularly as elections approach.

"Develop mechanisms to identify and defuse potential problems with the GNU before they lead to public disunity and confrontation," Mr. de Klerk said.

All parties in the National Assembly had entered into a solemn pact. "The essence of that pact is that the people and parties of South Africa must now close ranks to achieve important national goals."

Alluding to the labour unrest in the country, Mr. de Klerk said it was important that the spirit of national unity and seeking compromises should not be confined to the government only, but South Africans had to work together for long-term national interests, rather than short-term sectional interest.

"The private sector must realise that it should play a major role in achieving the objectives of a RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program]. By so-doing it will promote social stability and long term prospects for economic growth.

"Labour must also realise that the current wave of strikes will discourage investors and make our products less competitive in crucial exports market.

"In the long term, irresponsible strikes will work against the interests—not only of the workers involved—but also of the millions who do not have jobs."

Mr. de Klerk called on the business, labour and the government must reach an accord would ensure stability in the work force and a basis for confidence for investors. [sentence as received]

Azapo Flexible Toward Election Participation

MB0308142694 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 3 Aug 94 p 6

[Article by Joe Mdhlela]

[Text] Pragmatic politics allows for flexibility, and this seems to be the new realisation at AZAPO [Azanian

People's Organization]. The organisation's national council in Pretoria at the weekend dropped hints—and one must emphasise that these were only hints—that AZAPO may participate in the local government elections in March next year.

One such important hint was encapsulated in a remark made by president of AZAPO Professor Itumeleng Mosala to journalists at a press conference on Sunday. He said: "My people are anxious to participate in the local government elections and we are calling on the Government to speed up the process."

The second hint was in response to a question from a journalist seeking to establish if AZAPO would participate in the national general election scheduled for 1999. Mosala responded: "We at AZAPO do not think we will have to wait that long for the general election. We may, in fact, have the election sooner than that date."

If these are not clues to help decipher the political thinking in AZAPO, then one may be reading too much into these hints. During debate at council, some delegates suggested it may be a profitable exercise for AZAPO to be involved in civic politics. The argument was that civic politics "was where our people are."

There was also an insinuation that in some regions certain members of the organisation were already participating in civic politics. Logic dictates, therefore, that participation in the forthcoming local government elections will "evolve from the fact that AZAPO is already involved at civics level." Therefore, participation in local government would be a logical and natural development, it was argued.

There was also a direct hint from Mosala that "AZAPO wanted to participate in the 1995 local government election." In addition, publicity secretary of AZAPO Dr. Gomolemo Mokae was emphatic in suggesting that his organisation has always encouraged its members to get involved in civic politics. However, Mokae said AZAPO remained convinced that the present political dispensation as "hatched at Kempton Park" did not have the capacity to deliver genuine liberation to black people.

"Our people have asked AZAPO, as a true liberation movement, to give direction to the struggle by campaigning in the forthcoming local government elections. We have always stated that we are driven by the aspirations of our people and we will do what our people ask of us. We have reflected deeply on the matter and we think we are ready to lead our people to true liberation," Mokae said.

It is also true that the general principle of non-collaboration still serves as a torchlight for the organisation. It was conceived when the movement was first formed in the late 1960's. In many ways, the principle still applies as AZAPO is adamant that the settlement resulting in the election to power of the ANC-dominated Government was flawed in the first place. The argument

prevalent within the organisation is that power-sharing was not something blacks fought for.

"We at AZAPO feel that power still resides in white hands. By participating in local government politics we believe our people can influence events, and reverse this trend," Mosala said. That said, the inescapable fact facing AZAPO seems to be that standing aloof and continuing with armchair politics may be hurting rather than advancing their cause.

The starting point, it seems, would be to test their strength at local government politics. Indeed, there are areas in certain parts of the country where the organisation has begun making inroads, eating away at constituencies previously held by the ANC. What about national politics? Mosala's analysis of the current political situation is that the present Government will have to call an election sooner than the mandatory 1999 election date. He points to Government indecisiveness about a number of issues, including the manner in which it failed to handle the volatile June 16 issue. "All people worth their salt will want to take the Government to task for failing to deliver on their promises and for running rough-shod over issues like June 16 by pandering to the whims of big business." These issues, argued Mosala, are telltale signs that the Government is incapable of running the country. "Therefore, the Government may discover that it is duty-bound to seek a fresh mandate through an election," he said.

Whether AZAPO will participate in the local government elections, and indeed in the national election, will largely depend on what congress decides during 9 to 11 September. But if council deliberations are anything to go by, parties gearing themselves for local government elections may as well regard AZAPO as a new opponent.

Government Raises Civil Service Minimum Wage

MB0308155094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1535 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] National Assembly August 3 SAPA—The government had agreed to raise minimum wages in the public service by 4.77 per cent backdated to 1 July this year, Public Service Minister Dr. Zola Skweyiya said on Wednesday [3 August].

He said in the budget debate that this would mean the minimum had been raised by 20 percent since September last year.

Research Shows RDP Savings Not To Reduce State Spending

MB0308135494 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 3 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Edward West]

[Text] Cape Town—Savings measures proposed in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) will not reduce government spending significantly or

government revenues, says the Stellenbosch-based Bureau for Economic Research (BER).

The BER said government would have to raise loans to make up the shortfall, but the resultant higher interest payments on public debt would lead to even higher government consumption and spending and higher government dissaving. If the larger fiscal deficits were to be financed domestically, and if there was an economic upswing as forecast, the result would be the crowding out of private sector investment, higher inflation and, indirectly, the deterioration of the external balance. Government could reduce dissaving by raising indirect taxes, and lifting VAT [value-added tax] (coupled with the zero-rating of basic footstuffs) and the fuel levy, which would not burden the poor. These measures had no negative effect on the incentive to work and should encourage saving.

Another way of solving the dissaving problem was to prioritise, implying trade-offs among RDP goals. Another solution was to reduce the size of the public service, but this option appeared politically impossible. A public works programme was only a temporary solution to the shortage of job opportunities for semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the formal sector and could lead to "overheating" of the economy.

There was not much scope to fund the RDP by redirecting government spending, because a shift from protection to social services had already occurred and social services expenditure was already high compared with other countries. Further defence spending cuts were unlikely because of the cost of integrating the SADF [South African Defence Force] and MK [Spear of the Nation—ANC military wing] and the fact that the navy and air force's "aged capital stock" would have to be replaced, the BER said.

Although certain measures were proposed in the RDP to reduce waste and corruption, this was unlikely to be a source of savings. No government was immune to waste and this government still had to prove its competence.

If the RDP's goals were compared with the socio-economic backlog, the programme was totally inadequate. If implemented in its present form, it would serve only to stop further increases in the backlog. The BER concluded there was disagreement on the rate at which social backlogs could be reduced. Those who feared democracy would be threatened stressed that backlogs should be reduced faster than was advocated in the RDP, while those stressing affordability favoured a slower reduction in the backlogs than advocated.

Minister Botha Plans To Rationalize, Decrease Fuel Price

MB0408073894 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The government is investigating ways to rationalize or even reduce the petrol price. Mineral and

Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said in Parliament that there were no intentions to increase any elements of the fuel price apart from those affected by the price of crude oil and the rand's performance against the dollar. The inbound landed cost of a liter of petrol is just over 56 cents. Other factors that make up the petrol price include fuel tax, profit margins, delivery, customs and excise, and motor vehicle levy funds, and the National Road Safety Council levy.

South African Press Review for 3 Aug

MB0308124094

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Truth Commission To Rake Up Past—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 1 August in its page 6 editorial says it "never thought anything" of the idea of a truth commission, and now thinks "even less" despite the latest utterances of Justice Minister Dullah Omar. "No doubt, to show that it is not just a probe into human rights violations by the government and its agents only, Mr. Omar has included liberation movements. But we know from the ANC probe into torture in ANC camps, and the ANC's failure to act on its own commission's report, that the ANC human rights violations will not be a major feature of the probe." "President Mandela talks of the past being past, yet his government wants to rake up the past for some kind of purging of the national conscience or soul."

THE STAR

Spiralling Crime Rate—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 3 August in a page 10 editorial says the crime in South Africa "is no longer just another social problem: it is becoming endemic, even epidemic. Besides social restructuring via the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program], reducing the crime rate is probably the single most serious challenge facing South Africa today." "For a full-frontal attack on crime which stands a more than even chance of success, it is absolutely imperative that all of us—the GNU [Government of National Unity], the provincial legislatures, the police, social institutions and individuals—work together. Finger-pointing and passing the buck will not help."

Warning About Proposed Truth Commission—A second editorial on the same page believes Deputy President de Klerk is "quite right to sound a warning about the proposed truth commission. His point is simple: there has to be agreement on the procedures and objectives of the commission within the Government of National Unity if the body is to achieve its grand aim of promoting national conciliation." If the commission is established without consensus in the governing coalition, it is likely to "aggravate rather than resolve problems emanating from past conflict. The commission itself will become a contentious issue and a forum for renewed acrimony." Unless there is agreement on the modalities

and purpose of the commission, "apprehension will grow to compound the task of achieving national reconciliation."

BUSINESS DAY

NP in Opposition Role—Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 3 August in a page 12 editorial says Deputy President F. W. de Klerk and the National Party, NP, "are correct to take the view that, in principle, there is no reason why effective opposition should not be possible even while participating as a minority party in a coalition government. The real question is whether the NP possesses sufficient vision, clarity and creativity of thought to carry out that task effectively. The signs are not auspicious." De Klerk's vision of a coalition seen is to

be one where ministers "thrash out policy privately in Cabinet (much like the World Trade Centre backroom deals) and then remain under strict orders not to rock the boat in any way." This "more disciplined coalition arrangement may be appropriate in Western Europe where voluntary coalition governments have been common for decades. It may not be as appropriate in South Africa where the arrangement is controlled constitutionally." Furthermore, the NP "still has to demonstrate that it is able to move beyond the tendency to focus on preserving what past privilege it can for itself and its primary constituency. If it continues to be outdone by the ANC in the role of watchdog, its hopes for a better performance in the 1999 election will come to naught."

Angola

Government Communique Announces Better Times Ahead

MB0308113394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The government has issued a communique to calm the people. It says that better times are coming. In a communique issued yesterday, the Angolan Government noted that war and inflation are principally to blame for the country's difficult times. It noted, though, that people should not despair because new winds are about to blow. The Angolan Government also recognized the sacrifices the people have been making to survive these difficult times, and it noted that this is just a stage the country is going through and that better times beckon. [passage omitted]

Remarks by UNITA's Valentim on Lusaka Talks Considered

MB0308130894 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Report by Alves Antonio from Lusaka]

[Excerpts] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] remains resolute in its positions and the three outstanding issues on the national reconciliation agenda have not been settled yet. [passage omitted]

People behind the scenes say that the UNITA delegates have gone back even on matters they had already agreed on. In fact, this was confirmed by a UNITA source quoted by the TIMES OF ZAMBIA newspaper yesterday. In an interview he granted that newspaper today, UNITA Information Secretary Jorge Valentim said that UNITA intends to take up its positions in the country's government as soon as the Lusaka Accord has been signed. The government disagrees with that position. The government believes the movement led by Jonas Savimbi must first become a political party.

Jorge Valentim also said he disagreed with the government's request for a nominal list with the curriculum vitae of the UNITA politicians who will eventually participate in the government. Describing that move by the Angolan Government as unjust, the UNITA information secretary said that what is at stake now is the timetable for UNITA's participation in a future government of national unity. It is worth noting that the United Nations had given UNITA until 31 July to agree on a peace plan, failing which UNITA would have to face an additional UN sanctions package. [passage omitted]

Negotiators End Discussions on National Reconciliation

MB0308200194 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[Text] Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] negotiators this afternoon finally overcame the three pending issues on national reconciliation. A total of 11 chapters were under discussion, the most difficult ones being the extension of state administration throughout Angola, UNITA's participation in government, the return to barracks and confinement of soldiers serving in Jonas Savimbi's organization, and the reintegration of UNITA generals into the Angolan Armed Forces. The mediators and observers played a leading role.

Although the whole package on the application of national reconciliation modalities had been approved, the UNITA delegation raised three additional questions. An authorized source said one of the questions was dealt with early this evening. Details of the three issues have not been disclosed, though it is believed that everything will be finalized by tomorrow morning.

UNITA Shells Kuito; Situation in Cabinda Under Control

MB0308201894 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] this afternoon shelled the outlying areas of the city of Kuito, using long-range artillery. More than 10 shells were fired by B-12 and B-30 recoilless guns and 106-mm guns. No human casualties have been reported. Reliable sources in the Operational Command of the Angolan Armed Forces in Bie Province say the resumption of UNITA's shelling is aimed at retaking positions lost to government forces during recent clashes. Now UNITA troops are deployed near Cucama, (Simanda), and Cunhinga, some 19, 20, and 30 km from Kuito, and intend to raid the city of Kuito.

Meanwhile, Colonel Manuel Paiva, spokesman for the Cabinda Military Front, told the ANGOLAN PRESS AGENCY that the government forces' defensive lines now stretch some 15 km from the town of Buco Zauu. This prevents shelling by combined units of the UNITA-Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave-Cabinda Armed Forces. Col. Paiva said traffic on the Buco Zau-Dinge road has been restored. The road had been closed for the past two weeks. He said the situation in Chimbuande region and throughout the Tando Zinze Commune is stationary. The commune is 25 km from the provincial capital.

Military Successes in Kuito Reported

MB0308091194 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Gato Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, MPLA-PT, armed forces in the city of Bie [Kuito] have suffered yet another devastating blow to their vain attempts to annihilate the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA. Marcolino Benguela, the Voice of Resistance of the

Black Cockerel, Vorgan, correspondent in the area reports that the joint People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FAPLA, and Riot Police forces suffered heavy losses on the western strip of the town. In their hasty flight, the FAPLA forces left five soldiers killed and assorted war materiel on the ground. Our colleague also reported that yesterday another group of joint FAPLA-Riot Police forces was put to flight after it had tried to break down the defensive line of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FALA, on the southern section of the city.

UNITA Raises 3 National Reconciliation Issues

MB0408070394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report by Edgar Rangel]

[Excerpts] Now that differences concerning the implementation of national reconciliation measures have been overcome, everything seems to indicate that the Lusaka peace talks are now moving toward a new stage. Today the negotiators are scheduled to go to the Mulungushi Conference Hall to discuss another three issues raised by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] team to the talks. Alves Antonio, our correspondent in the Zambian capital, reports:

[Begin Antonio recording] This morning the government and UNITA representatives will continue their bilateral meetings. Yesterday, they wound up discussions on the whole 11-point package pertaining to the implementation of national reconciliation measures. Nonetheless, the UNITA team to the talks raised yet another three issues yesterday, one of which is reported to have been dealt with already. A reliable source told Radio Angola that it is expected everything will be wrapped up this morning. That source noted the outstanding issues are delicate, but can be overcome without undue difficulty. Should that prove to be the case, the government and UNITA will be in a position to discuss the outstanding items in the Lusaka peace talks, the mandate of the UN Angola Verification Mission, the role of the observers, and the Joint Political and Military Commission, CCPM. [end recording] [passage omitted]

It has been decided that UNITA will only participate in government once it has been demilitarized. The sooner it does so, the sooner its officials will be in government. [passage omitted]

Decision To Return Mercenaries to S. Africa Applauded

MB0408125994 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] delegation in New York today saluted the initiative by the South African Government to take Executive Outcomes to court. It also expressed the view that the return of mercenaries to South Africa

will allow the interested parties to find a honorable outcome to the Angolan conflict. Furthermore, it will allow South African President Nelson Mandela to improve his country's image.

Political observers (?attentive) to developments in the Angolan situation said yesterday that the Pretoria government must realize its historic responsibilities in southern Africa and order the return of all South African mercenaries involved in the Angolan civil war. Those observers describe as part of a new constructive awareness reports by South African newspapers that the presence of mercenaries in Angola affected the moral stature of President Mandela in his efforts to help the UN mediation find a peaceful settlement to the Angolan problem.

The Luanda regime had promised 500 million rands to the South African mercenaries drafted by Executive Outcomes. Those soldiers of fortune have been killing, raping, and destroying the Angolan fatherland, but the international community has remained silent.

President's Letter Criticizes UN Secretary-General

LD0408100094 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The Angolan president sent a letter to the Portuguese prime minister. In it he said the UN secretary-general failed to be truthful in his report about Angola.

The letter is the same as one sent to the president of the UN Security Council, which also asks that National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola [UNITA] and its leader be condemned. In the letter Jose Eduardo dos Santos described UNITA as a rebel force and addressed its leader as Mr. [as heard] Jonas Savimbi.

Prime Minister Cavaco Silva will read the letter when he returns from his vacation at the weekend. In the letter Jose Eduardo dos Santos accused the UN secretary-general of ignoring the fact that there is a legitimate, democratically elected government in Angola and added that it is a serious thing that UNITA has not been condemned for the crimes it has committed against the people of Angola.

The Angolan Embassy published the letter today in the Portuguese press as a paid advertisement. The letter also asks the president of the UN Security Council to ensure that UNITA is condemned at the meeting on Angola to be held at the end of the month. The Angolan Government asks for Cavaco Silva's support for this condemnation.

Central Bank Governor Assesses New Banknotes, State Deficit

MB0408095994 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report by Alberto de Sousa]

[Excerpt] If you have ever thought of buying a bag just to carry your pay, you can now rest assured that the solution has already been found to your problem: Amid great controversy, last night the National Assembly approved issuing the new 50,000 new kwanza notes. The National Assembly deputies approved issuing those notes, but they also recommended control measures.

The Angolan Government believes that inflation will not grow through issuing those new notes, but although the government's economic team emerged smiling from the meeting, they received instructions to implement collateral measures that will prevent major social changes.

Generoso de Almeida, governor of the National Bank of Angola, BNA, has commented on what the government hopes to achieve through issuing those new notes:

[Begin Almeida recording] What we would like to achieve is the creation of a stock [preceding word in English] of notes that will permit easy handling by the people and by the banking institutions themselves. [end recording]

The BNA believes that the new 50,000 new kwanza notes will not have any major effect on the people's normal buying power or their salaries. It also feels that the issue of such notes will not be a factor leading to a greater state deficit.

[Begin Almeida recording] The state deficit is estimated to be running at 11 trillion [no currency as heard]. The deficit will not change because 500,000 [figure as heard] new kwanza notes have now been issued. [end recording]

However, care has to be taken because our country suffers from the problem of speculation, irrespective of the introduction of larger notes. BNA Governor Generoso de Almeida agrees that problem could lead to increased prices in the informal market. [passage omitted]

Malawi

Muluzi Holds Talks With Namibian President, Departs

EA0308191694 Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency, the state president, Mr. Bakili Muluzi, today held talks in Windhoek with President Sam Nujoma of Namibia. [passage omitted] Later the two leaders drove to the venue of their discussion. President Muluzi is now on his way back home.

Mozambique

Opposition Parties Agree To Form Coalition

MB0308133094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] A group of unarmed opposition parties plans to form a coalition in Maputo tomorrow for electoral

purposes. NOTICIAS reports that that coalition will be the result of discussions held over the last month. Martins Bilal, vice president of the Mozambique Liberal and Democratic Party, Palmo, says that the coalition will allow small parties to be effectively represented in Parliament. He added that the Democratic Renewal Party, PRD, the Mozambique People's Progress Party, PPPM, the Mozambican National Union, Unamo, the National Democratic Party, Panade, and the Mozambique National Party, Panamo, will be the other members of the coalition.

Zambia

Investment Promotion Accord Signed With Switzerland

MB0308190494 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Zambia and Switzerland have signed an agreement on promotion and support for investment in both countries. The agreement signed in Lusaka this afternoon aims at promoting and protecting investment in both Zambia and Switzerland. Commerce Minister Dipak Patel signed the agreement for Zambia, while the ambassador of Switzerland to Zambia, (Roelof Jacobs), signed for his country. Patel said that the move is one of the various initiatives the government is taking to attract investors.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Dipak Patel has said that the government will not interfere with the investment programs in the country, especially privatization. Patel said in Lusaka today that the government wants all the investment programs, like privatization of state companies, to be carried out smoothly. He denied that the government is interfering in the sale of the Zambia Breweries, saying that the sale of the company is a process that is still being dealt with.

Road Repair Accord Signed With Norway

MB0308184694 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Zambia and Norway have reached an agreement toward the repairs of the heavily dilapidated great north road [words indistinct] President Chiluba ensuring firm orders to those involved in the project to get on with the work and stop squabbling. Chiluba gave the marching orders at the end of a meeting, which he held with Norwegian Charge d'Affaires (Geo Stoclingen) and cabinet ministers Andrew Kashita for works and supply and Ronald Penza for finance at State House yesterday. Chiluba noted that now that a firm commitment was in hand from Norway, those involved in the project should start work immediately.

Charge d'Affaires (Stoclingen) said in Lusaka today that the Royal Norwegian Government has been committed to providing funds for the repairs of the stretch covering 120 km from the Kapiri Mposhi junction of the great north road.

Nigeria

General Strike Called by Central Labor Movement

Labor Congress Strike Under Way

AB0308112494 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Official and commercial activities in Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria, have been grounded as the general strike called by the central labor movement in Nigeria, the Nigerian Labor Congress [NLC], took effect today. Commercial vehicles are off the roads and offices are closed. The city remains quiet as the police patrol the town. The strike is also reported to have begun in the eastern city of Enugu.

The strike was called by the labor congress to press its demands for the release of political detainees and the reopening of media houses shut by government. Negotiations between the NLC and government continued on Monday night [1 August] and a statement by the labor minister on Tuesday said progress was made on all points. The minister said another meeting of both parties had been fixed for Thursday.

On its part, the NLC said its central working committee would meet today to deliberate on the latest talks with government. The committee is expected to decide whether or not to continue with the strike action. Already some state councils of the NLC in the north of the country have dissociated themselves from the strike action which they described as politically motivated.

'Normal' Business in Abuja; 'Low' Turnout in Lagos

AB0308163594 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Normal work has been going on in many states today in spite of the stay-at-home order by the Nigeria Labor Congress. In some of the states, workers said they had no instruction to embark on strike. In the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, most workers were seen going about their normal businesses. There were also transactions in business houses. A Radio Nigeria correspondent who went round offices reports that workers were at their duty posts as early as 0730. [passage omitted]

The turnout of civil servants in the Lagos area was considerably low today apparently because of the persistent transport problem in the metropolis. A Radio Nigeria correspondent who visited the Federal Government Secretariat at Ikoyi says that workers who reported for duty complained of exorbitant transport fares. The transport problem has been compounded in the last few days by the lawlessness unleashed in several parts of Lagos by the miscreants known as area boys. They have

been terrorizing innocent citizens and scaring away people from their legitimate pursuits so as to have a field day for looting.

Workers in Edo State did not report for work today. A Radio Nigeria correspondent who went round Benin says government offices and commercial houses were closed. The state radio station is running a skeletal service. Meanwhile, the Edo State police command has warned that it will deal with anyone who tries to cause a breach of the peace. The commissioner of police, Mr. Simeon Oduroye, gave the warning in a statement in Benin. He said the command had received reports of plans by some activists to embark on violent demonstrations. Mr. Oduroye said they planned to use primary and post-primary school students for the demonstrations. He advised school authorities, parents, and guardians from restraining their wards in taking part in the demonstrations.

Strike 'Ignored' in Northern States

AB0308222594 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Reports from NTA News correspondents across the country indicate that the nationwide strike action by the Nigerian Labor Congress [NLC] was ignored in most states of the federation. There was normal work in Sokoto, Kaduna, Katsina, and Borno states. [passage omitted] Correspondents also confirmed early morning turnout of civil servants in Uyo, Calabar, Enugu, Oka, and Port Harcourt. From Kano, comes a report that banks and other financial institutions today operated normally in compliance with directives of the state branch of NUBIFIE [National Union of Banks, Insurance, and Financial Institutions Employees] that members ignore the NLC-directed nationwide strike. The zonal chairman of NUBIFIE, Malam Hamisu Zago, who gave the directive yesterday, condemned the killings and destruction of property in the guise of democracy. During a courtesy call on the Kano State administrator, Colonel Mohamed Wase, Malam Hamisu said although his union shares and supports the restoration of democracy, it condemns what it called the crude approach of some disgruntled elements. Responding, Col. Mohamed Wase commended the NUBIFIE and other similar unions for their mature approach to the current political situation in the country. He appealed to all Nigerians to show understanding with government toward achieving its set objectives.

Meanwhile, correspondent Ali Sabo, who went round Kano metropolis, reports that civil servants reported normally for duty. Some workers whom our correspondent interviewed said they had not received any directives from the local union officials to embark on industrial action. He also reports that commercial activities were not paralyzed in the state capital.

Workers within the Federal Capital Territory did not heed the call of the Nigerian Labor Congress to embark

on a nationwide strike action. Most secretariats visited within the city showed that workers reported to work as usual, while business centers and transport owners also had a field-day. Correspondent Adamu Abdulahi's report is presented from our studios:

[Begin Abdulahi recording] In the Federal Capital Territory, agriculture and national resources as well as the national planning commissions workers were seen transacting their official business as usual. [passage omitted] NTA News spoke to a cross-section of Nigerians at the Area 11 and federal secretariats on the impending strike action which most people condemned as callous and inhuman as it would bring a lot of untold hardship to citizens. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Strike Enters Second Day

AB0408111594 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The strike action called by the Nigeria Labor Congress [NLC] to press its demands for the release of political detainees and the reopening of media houses shut by government, is in its second day. While the strike has been ignored in some parts of the country, it remains effective in others, particularly in the southwest of the country. In Lagos, the commercial capital, activities are still paralyzed as government offices, banks, and commercial centers remain shut. Vehicular traffic is very light as commuter buses are off the roads. Similar situations are reported in Ibadan, Akure, Oshogbo, Enugu, Benin, Asaba, and Ilorin. However, in most of the northern states including Katsina, Niger, Kaduna, Bauchi, and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the strike order was rebuffed. Normal business was conducted in those states as well as in such eastern states as Imo and Abia. Local NLC leaders in the north considered the strike politically motivated and have dissociated themselves from it.

Government, NLC Make 'Progress'

AB0208155694 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Representatives of the Federal Government and the Nigerian Labor Congress have met again in Abuja in

continuation of their dialogue on the demands by the Congress. The government delegation was led by the chief of Army staff, Major General Chris Alli, while the NLC president, Mr. Pascal Bafyau, led the Congress team. A statement by the Federal Ministry of Labor and productivity in Abuja says progress was made on all the points raised by the two sides. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday [4 August] this week. The government has called on workers not to embark on industrial action, while the negotiations continue.

NLC President: Members To Meet Government

AB0308221694 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The meeting of the Central Working Committee of the Nigeria Labor Congress [NLC] scheduled for today in Lagos did not hold after all. This, according to the NLC president, Pascal Bafyau, is because members of the committee that came did not form a quorum. The meeting will now be held tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock [1000 GMT] after which the members will fly to Abuja for the meeting with officials of the Federal Government. On the strike action called by the NLC, Comrade Bafyau told our correspondent, Kunde Oyebandji, that he, Bafyau, is optimistic that the meeting with the Federal Government tomorrow would produce positive results that will enable the congress to call off the strike action.

[Begin Bafyau recording] Quite a number of states are participating in the industrial action. From the reports we have received, there has been some misunderstanding in few states, which of course, our delegations have gone to immediately get them rectified. So, so far, as a labor movement, it is satisfactory. Even if one industrial union is on a nationwide strike action, it has always not been possible to get strike, take it off at the same time. [sentence as heard] It takes time to unwind in all parts of the country. I am sure when we meet with the government tomorrow, with the indications that we have had, the meeting will arrive at a very positive conclusion that will go a long way in resolving the current crisis. [end recording]

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